

## CHRISTMAS EVE FIRES

**FLAMES AT THE CORNER OF BROAD  
WAY AND CORTLANDT STREET.**

**\$25,000—Broadway Blocked at Washington Place by Fire in a Fur Store**

Policeman Phil Fitzsimmons, peering through the windows of the five-story white office building at 175 Broadway, at 11:05 last night, saw flames pouring out of the rear of the offices of the North River Insurance Company, which is on the second floor.

The fire had mounted the elevator shaft to

The top floor before the engines came swept along the fifth floor into the New York Mercantile company's building, which is next to it, and the northwest corner of Cortlandt and Broadway.

The roofs of both buildings were burned off, and the two upper floors were badly damaged by fire. The flood of water streamed down from story to story, deluging everything, and making a pond a foot deep in the basements.

The basement of the corner building was occupied by Alderman Nicholas J. Brown's shoe shop. Above this was a large stock exchange, dashery, which suffered the most damage of all. Above this were the offices of the Columbian Society of the United States, an institution for shipping people to the Chicago Fair, and the offices of the New York Mercantile company. The fourth floor was the Fire Insurance Company, and the fourth and fifth floors were occupied by the New York Mercantile and the United States Mineral Wool Company.

At 4 Cortlandt street were William Poll & Co.

next below. The Waltham Clock Company's building, just below the corner building, was also damaged a little.

The building at 175 Broadway, where the first fire broke out, is a four-story building. The first story, the North River Insurance Company on the second, the Tappan & Tappan tailors, and the Eubank & Eubank Company on the third floor, the Silver Company and the office of Beni. M. Engelhard and Frank Engelhard on the fourth and fifth floors. The damage was in the second and third floors.

Smoke bursting from the second story windows of 141 Bay street at 10:30 last night, turned in an alarm. The first and fourth floors were filled with smoke, and the second and third floors were filled with smoke. The smoke was so thick that the men who dealt in. This waste is supposed to have taken fire by spontaneous combustion. There was a large quantity of waste material in the waste, which smoldered and could not be taken out by the fire department. The waste was damaged by water. The loss was at least \$5,000.

At 10:45 P. M. a fire at 111 Washington place, Policeman Murray discovered the fire. The fire was in the second floor of Solomon's fur store. J. A. Stein, ostrich pen owner, was in the store. The fire was extinguished. The damage was \$25,000. Fire department of Engine Company 13 was overcome by smoke.

**Drew the Line at Two Fires a Night.**

Charles Liscap, who draws one pension as

veteran of the Mexican war, and is an applicant for another for services in the late civil war, scattered kerosene around his room and in the adjoining hall at 139 West Twenty-fifth street, on March 23, 1903, at 10:30 a. m., and then set fire to things. The other inmates of the house put out the fire and didn't think it was worth while to call the fire department. He did the same thing four hours later they called in a policeman.

When he is insane, was locked up in the Thirtieth street station. He is 68 years old, and for the past 20 years has been living with a colored wife, as black as the proverbial one-spot cat.

**The Weather.**

Two storms occupied the centre of the country yesterday. The more severe was central over the Ohio Valley in the morning, having moved very slowly from Texas. It increased in energy during the day and the last of the afternoon put on a new and more violent last night, having caused dangerous winds all along the coast. They were generally on shore and were attended by a dense fog. The rain area spread over the middle of the continent and the weather cleared.

Warmer weather preceded its movement and usually high temperatures prevailed all along the coast States. From Virginia southward it was about 70°.

Mississippi and was attended by high winds and rain to the south of Kansas and snow in all the Northwest States and in the West. The weather was generally clear and Wisconsin. A cold wave moved south behind the storm centre, the temperature over Montana being below zero.

The fog and rain prevailed in this city during the day. The fog lifted in the evening and the rain ended about 10 P. M. Total fall, 5.4 of an inch; humidity average about 70 per cent. The maximum temperature in the afternoon, 36 miles an hour at the highest official temperature 51°, lowest 43°.

The thermometer at Ferry's pharmacy in Tus Sen building recorded the following temperature yesterday as follows:

	1890.	1891.	1890.	1891.
8 A. M.	50°	50°	3:30 P. M.	52°
9 A. M.	51°	54°	4 P. M.	53°
10 A. M.	52°	53°	5 P. M.	54°
11 A. M.	53°	54°	6 P. M.	57°

Average, 52°.

Average for Dec. 24, 1890, 51°; 1891, 52°.

LOCAL FORECAST TILL 6 P. M., FRIDAY.

For southeastern New York (including Long Island, and also for western Connecticut and northern New Jersey, including New York City) fog and rain, with a cold, cooler; northerly winds. For Saturday, fair; slightly warmer.

E. B. DICKS, Local Forecast Official.

FOR NEW ENGLAND TILL 8 P. M., FRIDAY.

For New England, fog and rain, with a cold, rain, probably clearing in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut during the day; slight changes in temperature.

For modern New York, western Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, showers, followed by generally fair weather during the day; variable winds; stationary temperature.

For the Potomac, Chesapeake, and Maryland, showers, followed by generally fair; west winds; slightly cooler.

For western New York, western Pennsylvania, and Ohio, light showers; variable wind; slight changes in temperature, except cold in south portion.

For the Ohio and Indiana, showers, followed by a storming has moved northward, with increasing pressure at the centre, while a high area to the northeast of New England has caused increasing gradients, attended by easterly gales, and New England coast. Rain has been falling generally in the Ohio and Indiana, and in the Ohio Valley, and the lake regions. Snow is reported from the Northwest and Rocky Mountain stations. It is warmer in the Southwest, and colder in England and New York, and in the remaining districts.

As respects the temperature has remained about stationary. A cold wave has advanced south over western Kansas and Colorado, and the temperature is 20° below zero at that place, and of the same order of cold in the mountains are that the cold wave will extend over the central and the upper lake region by Saturday, and probably

[illegible]

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